

Appn. No. 09/717,767

Attorney Docket No. 5709-159

II. Remarks

Claims 1 through 4 and 6 through 19 are pending in the application. Claims have been amended. No new claims have been added and 18 claims thus remain under consideration.

Rejections Under 35 USC §112

Claims 1 through 4 and 6 through 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, in claim 1, lines 5 through 9, the Examiner states that, "Applicants recite a first slot and a second slot. It appears that the Applicants have reversed the slots and that the first slot should be the second slot and visa versa."

In fact, the indefiniteness noted is not within the claim but is, rather, an inconsistency between the specification and the claim. In the specification on page 7, the first slot identified by the reference number 56 receives a flange 60 of the vehicle body whereas the second slot identified by the reference number 64 receives the web 42 of the cover 30. In order to maintain consistency between the specification and claim 1 and overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claim 1 has been revised only to the extent necessary to reverse the description or characterization of the first and second slots

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It is submitted that the amendments to independent claim 1 render it both consistent with the specification and drawings and neither vague nor indefinite and thus harmonious with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of such rejection, allowance of claims 1 through 4 and 6 through 8 is thus appropriate and requested.

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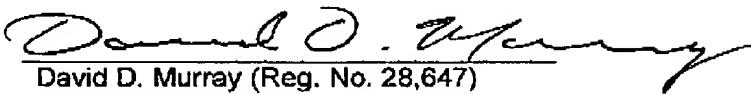
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SUMMARY

Pending Claims 1 through 4 and 6 through 19, as amended, are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


David D. Murray (Reg. No. 28,647)
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS
HOFFER
GILBON
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